

By taking protective measures, you can interact with a disease-ridden person with a confidence not based on your body's resistance but based on your "armor." For example, here at the SEND House in Columbus, Ohio, we are surrounded by the infectious disease of sin. Prostitution is way, way too close for comfort and the house was robbed recently. Our gay neighbors are outraged, but theirs is a personal rights issue—not a desire to see God's kingdom come to our neighborhood. Now, in our response to prostitution and thievery on 17th Street, friendships and a sense of community are being built. Our responses to violations show Christ to our neighbors, however imperfectly. It must seem absurd to pray for a thief, to minister to prostitutes. To some it may seem crazy to love our gay neighbors—but we need them and they need us. Mostly we all need Christ.

Perhaps you are ministering to someone who already knows Christ but is still struggling. They have come to you as the specialist for advice and medication. Do you need protection? Yes! You must always wear gloves when dealing with someone else's dirt. And afterwards, wash your hands. Otherwise you risk contamination. This summer we have had many youth come through our doors as part of our City Challenge and SWIM programs. Normally, we spend an evening with each group in an extended time of worship and ministry. God shows up every time. Youth confess sins and receive healing. As ministers, we staff members must have on protective gear - the armor of God and mind of Christ. With this security, we can embrace the brokenness of youth and administer healing; knowing the blood of Christ is guarding our hearts and minds.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Chad Showalter (R '96) & **Deborah Shenk** were married on May 28, 2005

Marie Blaker (S '02) and **Steven Barth** were married on June 11, 2005

Randall Weaver (R '02) and **April Byler** were married on June 11, 2005

Drew Maust (S '02) and **Emily Hayes** were married on June 4, 2005

Jessica DiGennaro (R '98, '00) and **Robert Satterfield** (R '02) were married on June 11, 2005

2005 City Challenge

